

ST PETER'S NEWSLETTER

February 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,

Your children have really been showing so much respect and kindness this week to each other and to all the adults. We have all been revisiting the expectations of behaviour at school and the children are happily fulfilling these. They are opening doors for one another, showing super manners and listening to instructions. Children are remembering to walk around the school quietly so they don't disturb others who are learning. Some children have needed reminders this week, but we hope to get to the point where everyone is happy to show respect, keep themselves and others safe and to be ready for their learning.

SJDunning

Sarah Dunning

Head Teacher

FARNHAM & DISTRICT SWIMMING GALA



Just before half term, we took a team of swimmers down to Farnham Leisure Centre to compete against 10 schools in the Farnham and District Swimming Gala. We didn't bring a cup home but

we had some outstanding individual performances and every pupil who participated was a credit to the school.

Y5 MUSIC FESTIVAL



On Monday 10th February, 25 Year 5 children took part in the Surrey Music Festival. It was a real pleasure to teach the children the songs and then to take part in an online rehearsal with over 2,000 children. On the day of the performance at GLive, we rehearsed in the afternoon under the professional baton of Esther Jones. Our children sang in 4 parts and were fabulous. As well as learning the songs in school, the children also took time at home to practice. Their behaviour was impeccable and their singing joyful. Mrs Cobb and Mrs Dunning were so proud of their performance. We hope that next year the next Y5 children will want to take part.

GREEN FLAG AWARD SHORT FILM



The Eco team and the Gardening club were involved in making a short film to promote The Green Flag Award in Surrey Schools. We had great fun showing the film crew around our Forest School and Garden, as well as talking about all

the things St Peters do to help the environment. Special mention to our great Y5 Eco Team members who spoke so eloquently: Emmylou, Dhiya and Molly.

Great work everyone!



Y2 BALL SKILLS FESTIVAL



This month we hosted a Ball Skills festival for Year 2 children. Despite the cold forecast, we were delighted to welcome nearly 90 children from 8 local schools to join some of our Year 2 children in a variety of ball skill activities. The event gave our Year 6 Sports Crew and Young Leaders the opportunity to plan, organise and lead the activities. It was wonderful to see them develop their leadership skills and confidence in running the event for the younger children. They welcomed our visitors to school and offered many encouraging words to ensure all joined in. We are looking forward to hosting a similar event in June when hopefully it will be a lot warmer!

Y5 ATHLETICS AT WEYDON



A group of Y5 children to Weydon for an athletics competition. The children were great and I'm pleased to say we won first place (out of 5 schools) narrowly beating Rowledge

by a few points.

Y6 ATHLETICS AT HEATH END

After a very exciting morning at Heath End, the Y6 athletics came away as winners of the indoor athletics event today, beating 5 other schools including South Farnham and Highfield! As a result we now have secured a place at the County Finals in Guildford on the 1st April!

Y5 RE VISIT TO MUBARAK MOSQUE



Earlier this month, Y5 pupils enjoyed a fascinating trip to the Mubarak Mosque in Tilford. The Ahmadiyya Community welcomed the pupils, explaining how Muslims worship and pointing out key features

of the Mosque. This really supports the RE curriculum in school as it is so important for our pupils to learn about different faiths and world views. It gives them the privileged experience of visiting a revered place of worship and opens their minds to learn more about people, not only in the Farnham community but also in the UK and further afield. Our Y2 and Y5 pupils were also fortunate to have a session from one of our parents who is both a secondary school teacher and a practising Muslim. We are so grateful to have such expertise in our community.

TRICK BOX - I'M STRONG!



With this card, children learn that our thoughts and emotions affect our physical bodies which in turn, influence our behaviour.

Children learn that we send signals through our body language and that others pick up on this. It is a way of 'communicating'.

In class, the teacher will begin with: "Your mind and body are always sending messages to each other. It's amazing! Let's see how that happens." They then go through a role play to show how our body state changes if we think negatively or positively. The idea is that if we think positively and believe in ourselves, then we shall feel stronger and more confident.

Staying Safe Online

Hints and Tips #2 – Talk to your children about how they are using the internet

A simple and effective way to get involved with your children and their lives online is through discussion. If you know what they are accessing online, it gives you and them the power to make decisions to help keep them safe online.

Conversation starter ideas

1. Ask your children to tell you about the sites they like to visit and what they enjoy doing online.
2. Ask them about how they stay safe online. What tips do they have for you, and where did they learn them? What is OK and not OK to share? Ask them if they know where to go for help, where to find the safety advice, privacy settings and how to report or block on the services they use.
3. Encourage them to help. Perhaps they can show you how to do something better online or they might have a friend who would benefit from their help and support.

Think about how you use the internet as a family. What could you do to get more out of the internet together and further enjoy your lives online?

For more information and extra resources go to; <https://www.childnet.com/parents-and-carers/have-a-conversation/>

TRICK BOX COURSE FOR PARENTS

We are hoping to run a six-week course for parents during the summer term. It will be six weekly sessions which will be timetabled to start straight after drop-off. We have had very positive feedback from previous courses and hope that parents will consider signing up. More details to follow.

FOOTBALL FOR GIRLS

Local coach Andrew Hall has been involved with girls' football at St Peter's for five years now. He has very generously offered to lead sessions for girls from Y1- Y6 who may not have tried football before or who do not play with an external club. These are running at lunchtimes. Some of the girls who started football at St Peter's have gone on to be very successful players at secondary level. These will not be competitive sessions. They are designed to teach basic skills while having fun. Of course, Andrew is hoping that girls who may not have considered football before, may come to enjoy the sport as a way of keeping fit and making new friends. Total beginners are encouraged. There is no charge for the sessions this half term.

BREAKTIME SNACKS



Children are allowed to bring in fruit or vegetable sticks for their break-time snacks. No processed fruit/vegetable snacks please.

ATTENDANCE

Regular and punctual attendance in school is vital for many reasons, including making better progress, both socially and academically; find school routines, learning, friendships easier to cope with. Consequently, we all feel it is essential that children here at St Peter's are in school every day, on time and ready to learn from 8:35am in the morning.

When children are late, they miss valuable learning time, as well as causing disruption for others who are settled. If your child is unwell, please telephone the school office by 9:00am, so they are marked accordingly in the school register. Repeated illness may require a conversation with the school, so we can work together to support you and your child. Our school day begins at 8.40am and all children are expected to be in class by this time.

As a school we take punctuality and attendance very seriously due to the high value we place on your child receiving their full curriculum entitlement.

A late mark, after register has closed contributes to a lower attendance rate. The Government's definition of a persistent absentee is a child with an attendance of less than 90%. That is the equivalent of missing 5 days of school in 10 weeks (approximately a term). An attendance rate of 90% in one academic year is the equivalent of four whole school weeks missed.

Thank you for supporting your child with good routines to allow them to attend punctually and regularly.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd March: Y1 trip to Gilbert White House & Gardens

4th & 5th March: parents' evening

5th March: Y2 SATRO workshop

Y4 Civil War workshop at Farnham Museum

6th March: World Book Day

11th March: PTFA disco

12th March: YR trip to Finkley Down Farm

17th March: Y6 trip to Yvonne Arnaud Theatre

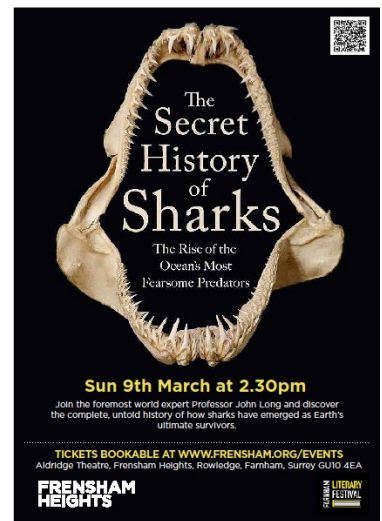
19th March: Y3 trip to Chichester Novium Museum

INDEPENDENT SCHOOL REPORTS—CHARGE

From March 2025, we will be charging an administration fee of £20 for reports requested by parents for Independent schools. The money will be paid into school fund. It can take a class teacher a great deal of time collating information for the varying report formats and often there are more than one requested per pupil. Once the £20 has been received the school will process the report and send to the appropriate school.

BASE

Please can we remind you that the BASE is a provision for working parents. We continue to receive enquiries for a place so the children can play with their friends rather than be collected by the parent. To keep our waiting lists down we ask you only to use the facility if you are a working parent. We have plans to increase our capacity and there will be more information about this soon.



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